

11-30-59

FROM ATLANTA OFFICE

WALKER L. KNIGHT, regional editor
161 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta 3, Georgia
Telephone: JACKSON 3-2593

Canal Trouble Hampers Work Only Slightly

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--The present problems in Panama and the Canal Zone but slightly hamper Southern Baptist mission work in the area, according to R. G. Van Royen, superintendent of Home Mission Board work in the Republic of Panama.

"The recent difficulties have created a situation in which we cannot work as freely as before," he said. "However, all of our missionaries are co-operating in a wonderful way. We do not feel that there will be any permanent damage to our work."

Van Royen was in Atlanta for the annual meeting of the Home Mission Board. He indicated that one reason the disturbances would affect the work so little is that there are only eight of the 86 missionaries and workers in the field who are not natives.

Southern Baptist work in the Republic, which extends 500 miles from north to south and up to 100 miles wide, includes 26 churches and 35 missions.

"The rapid spread of the work in Panama has been so great that we find it difficult to keep up with the demand for property, new buildings, and trained leaders," Van Royen said.

He compared the work there with Baptist beginnings in the states 100 years ago. The greatest need is in the education field, to train pastors and workers in the basic principles of Southern Baptist education work.

To do this, a seminary was started five years ago. There are 18 students this year, and last year 16 graduated. "All 16 are in the work now," he said. "We are already receiving the fruits of these people who are trained in our work."

Van Royen has a dream of 30 acres of land to house the seminary, a secondary school for missionary children, headquarters for leadership, an orphanage, and apartments for retired missionaries.

New Chapel Dedicated
At Home Mission Board

ATLANTA, Ga.,--(BP)--A move has been made by the Home Mission Board to meet the physical needs for expansion to keep pace with the increase in mission work. Hundreds of Atlantians and visitors viewed the 90-seat chapel, constructed this fall, and redecorated and expanded office space when they were guests at Open House, Dec. 1.

Held during the annual board meeting, the event drew pastors and laymen from every state convention of Southern Baptists, Alaska, Panama, and Cuba.

"Our chapel is used for committee and board meetings throughout the year, and it is used by the staff for their daily devotions," said Executive Secretary Courts Redford of the Home Mission Board.

Dick H. Hall, Jr., Decatur, who served for 16 years as a member of the board, delivered the dedicatory address for the chapel Tuesday morning.

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Macon Churches Consider
Juvenile Program

11/30/59

Baptist
MACON, Ga.,--(BP)--/churches in Macon, Ga., may begin Juvenile Rehabilitation work through the association. They appointed a committee to study the matter further in a meeting with Superintendent of Juvenile Rehabilitation J. V. James of the Home Mission Board.

"Pastors present expressed an interest in doing something to help the delinquent boys and girls of their city," said James.

Fifteen such programs are in operation in large cities by Southern Baptist groups according to James.

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Ministers To Distressed
Hold First Workshop

11/30/59

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.,--(BP)--Pastors, chaplains, and missionaries attended the first workshop for Southern Baptist ministers to people in distress, held in Oklahoma City.

The workshop was sponsored by the Home Mission Board's Chaplains Division and the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. "This workshop set a pattern for similar workshops to be held in the future," said George Cummins, Atlanta, associate director of the Chaplains Division.

During four sessions, the group was guided by leaders in the fields of hospitals, chaplaincy, psychiatry, religious psychology, and penal institutions.

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Ministry in institutions for prisoners, mentally distressed, and aged; in hospitals, the military, and industry were treated in workshops and panel discussions.

Speakers related the minister to the mental health field, hospital visitation, and teamwork with physicians and chaplains.

Frank Tripp, New Orleans, retired leader of Southern Baptists in the field of hospital administration, closed the workshop by saying, "It is all for evangelism."

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Inmates Get Testaments

11/30/59

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Twenty-five hundred Soul Winner's New Testaments have been distributed to inmates at South Carolina State Penitentiary by representatives of 35 Baptist churches in Spartanburg and North Spartanburg Association.

"An effort will be made to put one of these in the hands of each of the 1,200 inmates, and through special instruction, seek to teach them to use it effectively," said Chaplain Harold Wells.

Evangelist Cliff Brannon, who designed the Soul Winner's Testament, made the presentation for El Bethel Baptist Assembly.

Three hundred thousand of the testaments have been printed, and 200,000 are in circulation.

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Folks and facts...

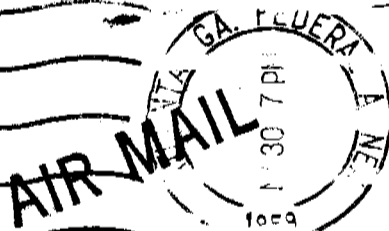
.....The Southern Baptist mission at Plattsmouth, Neb., has an airman-minister, Joe Hawn, Amarillo, Tex., assigned to the Base Education Office at Offutt Air Force Base nearby. Hawn had previously served as director of music and assistant to Pastor Tommy Grozier of the sponsoring church, First Baptist of Bellevue.

.....The American Bible Society formally expressed appreciation to Louie D. Newton, Atlanta, and Georgia Baptist churches for their "significant part in enlisting Southern Baptist churches as major contributors to the financial support of the Society."

In its expression the Society cited a 1941 incident when Georgia Baptist churches gave 25 per cent of funds contributed by Southern Baptist Convention churches in response to the need for Russian New Testaments for Russian prisoners of war in Germany.

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ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA



Theo Sommerkamp
Executive Committee
127 Ninth Avenue, North
Nashville, Tennessee

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